

Popish Cruelty,

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Popish Cruelty

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W. A. C. T. S.

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THE Absurdities, which abound in all the Tenets of the *Romish* Church, are so great, that a thinking Man cannot but wonder at the Delusion of her Professors. The Usurpations which she makes on the Properties, and the Shackles which she puts on the Minds of Men, are so grievous, that it is surprizing any one, who claims the Freedom, or the Dignity of a rational Being, can submit to them. The Methods, by which she obtains her Power, and the Manner in which she exercises it, are so repugnant to the Gospel, that no Man can countenance or support the first, without sacrificing the last: Frauds and Perjuries, Assassinations and Massacres, she pardons, she authorises, and she sanctifies. The Progress, therefore, which *Popery* is making under the
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present Rebellion, should alarm, should rouse, should animate every one, who has a Love of Liberty, a Sense of Humanity, or would preserve the Character of a *Christian*. The Rebellion apparently owes its Birth to the Church of *Rome*, and, consequently, if it should succeed, the Debt must be paid by a general Submission to the Power, and the Cruelty of that Church: What we are fighting for then is, whether *Popery* or *Protestantism* shall prevail. As it is the common Cause of *Protestants*, it is our Duty to be united in it, lest, like *Sampson's* Foxes, by running different Ways, (though tied together by the same Band) we destroy all around us, and perish ourselves in the Flames. Many excellent Sermons have been preached and published against *Popery*, but as these could not come within the Hearing, and may not fall under the Perusal, of so many as they should, it may not be amiss to publish a short Narrative of some Facts, which will set *Popery* in its proper Light.

These may have an Effect, where the most solid Reasoning, lively Eloquence, and pathetick Exhortations would not be attended to. They are taken from *Rushworth*, an Author of undoubted Veracity, whose Business was not the writing of an History, but collecting Records, and authentick Vouchers for one. These Facts are accompanied with

with such Circumstances of Horror, that perhaps they may open the Eyes of those who have been blinded, and, by giving them a Prospect of the Ruins and Devastations, which their Priests oblige them to be the Instruments of making, may lead them back into the Way of Truth: At least, they must make *Protestants* start at the approaching Danger of a Religion, whose Faith is Idolatry, whose Practice is Persecution, which blends together Devotion and Massacres, and would promote a Piety towards Heaven with all the Rage of Hell.

The *Irish* Rebellion, which broke out in the Year 1641, was a general Conspiracy among the *Papists* to extirpate all the *Protestants* in that Kingdom. The Day, on which the bloody Design was put in Execution, was *Saturday* the 23d of *October*, a Day dedicated to *St. Ignatius*, Founder of the *Jesuits* Society. The Plot for securing the Castle of *Dublin*, the chief Magazine of the Kingdom, was discovered but the Day before, by which that City was preserved. In every other Place it was carried on with such Secrecy, that none but the Priests and principal Leaders among the Laity were acquainted with it till the Time of Execution. And then (says *Rushworth*) the *Papists* in all Parts, having from their Priests received the Watch-Word, both for Time and Place, rose

up, as if they were actuated by one and the same Spirit, in all Places, at one and the same Point of Time, and so fell upon the *Protestants*, murdering some, stripping or expelling others out of their Habitations. This bred such a general Terror and Astonishment among the *English*, that they knew not what to think, much less what to do, or which Way to turn themselves. Their Servants were killed as they were ploughing in the Fields, Husbands cut to Pieces in the Presence of their Wives, their Childrens Brains dashed out before their Faces; others had all their Goods and Cattle seized and carried away, their Houses burnt, their Habitations laid waste, and all as it were in an Instant, before they could suspect the *Irish* (i.e. the *Papists*) for their Enemies, or any ways imagine, that they had it in their Hearts, or in their Power, to offer so great Violence, or do such Mischief.

The very *Irish* Children in the beginning fell to strip and kill *English* Children; all other Relations were quite cancelled and laid aside, and it was now esteemed a most meritorious Work in any of them that could, by any Means or Ways whatsoever, bring an *Englishman* to the Slaughter.

Besides their open Cruelties, they omitted no Arts to draw the *Protestants* into their Power, for such of those as stood upon their Guard;

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Guard; and had gathered together, tho' but in small Numbers, were offered good Conditions of Quarter, with a safe Conduct into what Place soever they pleased; and to confirm these, the *Papists* gave them Covenants, under their Hands and Seals, sometimes with deep Oaths and Protestations; and as soon as they had them in their Power, they held themselves disengaged from their Promises, and left their Soldiers at Liberty to despoil, strip, and murder them at their Pleasure.

Notwithstanding the Castle and City of *Dublin* were preserved, and the Government thereby had the Means of making some Stand against the Rebels, One Hundred and fifty four Thousand *Protestants*, Men, Women, and Children, *English*, and *Scotch*, were massacred in that Kingdom, between the 23d of *October* and the first of *March* following, by the Computation of the Priests themselves, that were present, and principal Actors in all those Tragedies, and were directed by some chief Rebels of *Ireland* to take this Computation, lest they should be reported to be more bloody than in Truth they were: All which appeared by the Examination of Archdeacon *Maxwell*, a learned Divine, who lived as a Prisoner a long Time with St. *Phelim* O *Neal's* Mother, and was there when the Computation was brought in.

A Breviate of some of the Cruelties, Murders, &c. committed by the Irish Popish Rebels upon the Protestants in the Rebellion and Massacre, which broke out in that Kingdom October 23, 1641, attested upon Oath.

THE following Extract (says *Rushworth*) is grounded upon Depositions, and Examinations taken upon Oath, by vertue of Commissions under the great Seal of *Ireland*, remaining in the Repositories of Records at *Dublin*, to which abundant more Instances, of like kind, might be added from undoubted Proofs or Vouchers.

The Rebels of the County of *Antrim* confessed to Archdeacon *Maxwell* that they had killed in one Morning Nine Hundred and fifty four in that County, and besides them they supposed they had killed Eleven or Twelve Hundred more.

In the County of *Armagh*, Protestants in Multitudes were forced over the Bridge of *Portue-down*, whereby at several Times there were drowned in the River of *Bann* above One Thousand.

Mr. *William Blundell* drawn by the Neck in a Rope up and down Black Water at *Charlemont*, and three Weeks after, he with his Wife and Seven Children drowned, a Wife compelled to hang her own Husband.

Two and twenty Protestants put into a Thatched House in the Parish of *Killmore*, and there burnt alive. Three

Three Hundred *Protestants* stript naked, and put into the Church of *Logball*, whereof about an Hundred murdered in the Church, amongst whom *John Gregg* was quartered alive, his Quarters then thrown into the Face of *Richard Gregg* his Father. The said *Richard* was afterwards murdered, having received Seven Wounds, and afterwards cut into Quarters in Presence of his Wife. Such as were not then murdered, were turned out amongst the *Irish*, naked in the Cold, most of whom were killed by *Irish* Trulls and Children.

Rowry Macguire, upon the 24th of *October*, came with his Company into *Lissenskeath*, and desired in a friendly Manner to speak with Master *Middleton*, who had the keeping of the *Castle*: The first Thing he did, as soon as he was entered therein, was to burn the Records of the County, whereof *Middleton* was the Keeper, being Clerk of the Peace: He afterwards compelled him to hear Mass, and swear never to alter from it; and immediately after caused *Middleton*, his Wife, and Children, to be hanged up; and murdered an Hundred Persons besides at least in that Town.

Elizabeth, the Wife of Captain *Rue Price*, of the Town and County of *Armagh*, deposed, that five of her Children, with a Hundred and Ten other *Protestants*, were sent away

away with Passes from St. *Phelim O Neal*, with Promises to be conveyed safely over to their Friends in *England*; that their Conductors were Captain *Manus O Cane* and his Soldiers, who having brought or rather driven them, like Sheep or Beasts, to the Bridge of *Portue-down*, there forced or threw all those *Protestants* into the Water together, with the Deponent's five Children, and then and there drowned most of them; and those who could swim to the Shore, they either knock'd on the Head, and so after drowned them, or else shot them to Death.

Elizabeth Price deposed, that when divers of the *English* were about to be murdered, and desired the Rebels on their Knees to permit them to make their Prayers to God; the Rebels have often in her Hearing answered and said, Bequeath your Soul to the Devil; and at other Times the Rebels would say, Why should you pray? your Soul is with the Devil already; and, with these Words in their Mouths, would slaughter, and put them to Death.

Philip Taylor deposed, that the Rebels killed a Dyer's Wife at *Rosie Trevor* at the *New-ry*, and ripped up her Belly, she being great of two Children, and threw her and her Children into a Ditch, and he, the Deponent, drove away Swine from eating one of the Children.

Mary Barlow deposed, that her Husband
being

being by the Rebels hanged before her Face, she and six Children were stript stark naked, and turned out a begging in Frost and Snow, by Means whereof they were almost starved, having nothing to eat in three Weeks, while they lay in a Cave, but two old Calve Skins, which they beat with Stones, and so eat them Hair and all, her Children crying out to her rather to go out and be killed by the Rebels, than to starve there.

Lieutenant *Gyles Maxwell* (by Order from Sir *Phelim O Neal*) was dragged out of his Bed, raving in the Height of a burning Fever, driven two Miles, and then murdered, his Wife, big with Child, stript stark naked, and drowned in the Black Water, the Child half born.

Mr. *Starkey*, a Schoolmaster at *Armagh*, about one hundred Years old, and his two Daughters stript stark naked; the Daughters forced to support and lead their Father, and having gone three Quarters of a Mile, were all three drowned in a Turf-Pit.

In the County of *Caterlagh*, among many other Murders, two Women hanged up by the Hair of their Heads all Night; the next Day, being found still alive, they were murdered; a Woman newly delivered of two Children, one of them had its Brains beaten out against the Stones, the other destroyed.

In the County of *Down* the Rebels confessed

feſſed Colonel *Bryan O'Neal* killed about One Thouſand, beſides Three Hundred killed at *Killelagh*.

In the County of *Tyrone* two young Rebels murdered One Hundred and forty Women and Children: Beſides many other Murders in the ſame County, eighteen *Scotch* Infants were hanged on Clothiers Tenter-hooks, and one young *Scotchman* murdered, and Candles made of his Greafe; another *Scotchman's* Belly ript up, and the End of his ſmall Guts tied to a Tree, then he was drawn about till his Guts were pulled out, that they might try (they ſaid) whether a Dog's or a *Scotchman's* Guts were the longeſt.

Arthur Agmoughty depoſed, that during the Siege of *Caſtle Forbes*, the Rebels killed poor Children that went out to eat Weeds or Graſs; and that a poor Woman, whoſe Huſband was taken by the Rebels, went to them with two Children at her Feet, and one other at her Breaſt, hoping to beg her Huſband's Life, but they flew her and her ſucking Child, broke the Neck of another of her Children, and the third hardly eſcaped.

Alexander Creighton of *Glaſſlough* in the County of *Monaghan*, Gent. depoſed, that he heard it credibly reported among the Rebels at *Glaſſlough*, that *Hugh Mac O'Degan*, a Prieſt, had done a moſt meritorious Act, in drawing betwixt forty and fifty *Engliſh* and

and *Scotch* in the Parish of *Ganalley*, in the County of *Fermannagh* to a Reconciliation with the Church of *Rome*, and after giving them the Sacrament, demanded of them whether Christ's Body was really in the Sacrament or not? and they said yea; and that he demanded of them further, whether they held the Pope to be supreme Head of the Church? they likewise answered he was; and that thereupon he presently told them they were in a good Faith, and for Fear they should fall from it, and turn Hereticks, he, and the rest that were with him, cut all their Throats.

N.B. Many other Instances, equally horrid with the foregoing, are mentioned by *Rushworth*, but are omitted here for Brevity, and not to trespass too long on the Humanity of the Reader.

To these execrable Murders the Pope gave his Sanction by a Brief to one of the *O'Neal's*, dated *October* 1642, and by the following, dated the Year after.

The Pope's Indulgence to War against the Hereticks in Ireland.

URBAN the Eighth, &c.

HAVING taken into our serious Consideration the great Zeal of the *Irish* towards propagating the Catholic Faith, and the Piety of the Catholic Warriors in the several Armies in that Kingdom, (which was for that singular Fervency in the true Worship of God, and notable Care had formerly in the like Case by the Inhabitants thereof, for the Maintenance and Preservation of the same Orthodox Faith, called the Land of Saints) and having got certain Notice, how, in Imitation of their godly and worthy Ancestors, they *endeavour, by Force of Arms*, to deliver their thrall'd Nation from the Oppressions and grievous Injuries of the Hereticks, wherewith this long Time it hath been afflicted, and heavily burthened, and gallantly do what in them lieth to *extirpate and totally root out* those Workers of Iniquity, who in the Kingdom of *Ireland* had infected, and always striven to infect the Mass of Catholic Purity with the pestiferous Leaven of this Heretical Contagion: We, therefore, being willing to cherish them with the Gift of those Spiritual Graces, whereof by God we are ordained *the only Disposers* on Earth, by the
 Mercy

Mercy of the same Almighty God, trusting in the Authority of the blessed Apostles *Peter* and *Paul*, and by Virtue of that Power of *binding and loosing Souls*, which God was pleased (*without our deserving*) to confer upon us; to all and every one of the faithful Christians in the Kingdom of *Ireland*, now, and for the Time *militating against the Hereticks*, and other Enemies of the Catholic Faith; they being truly and sincerely penitent after Confession, and the spiritual refreshing of themselves with the sacred Communion of the Body and Blood of Christ, do grant a full and plenary *Indulgence and Remission for all their Sins*, and such as in the holy Time of Jubilee is usual to be granted to those that devoutly visit a certain Number of privileged Churches, within and without the Walls of our City of *Rome*, &c.

Dated at Rome in the Vatican, or St. Peter's Palace, the 25th of May, 1643, and in the Twentieth Year of our Pontificate.

M. A. Maraldus,

Let

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Let the Reader now coolly consider, (if he can be cool after reading this Account) let him consider what must be the Event, if the present Rebellion should prevail. Let him view the dreadful Scene which will be opened, if *Papery* breaks in upon us, especially flush'd with Conquest, with the Sword ready in her Hands, and Died to the Hilt in Blood. Let him look into the Bible, whilst yet he can do it, and let him see how directly opposite the Precepts of *Jesus Christ*, and the Injunctions of the *Pope* (who calls himself *Christ's Vicar*) are. By observing this Opposition, he will see one principal Reason, why the Church of *Rome* forbids the Laity the Use of the Scriptures, in which scarce one Article of their Faith is justified, by which every Part of her Conduct is absolutely condemned. I shall add nothing more to this, but a sincere and hearty Wish, that all Distinctions among ourselves may be forgotten, that all Suspicions of one another may be laid asleep, and that as *Englishmen* and *Protestants* we may unite in one Resolution, chearfully and steadily to maintain our Constitution and our Religion: The only Questions now to be considered, are, Whether we will be *Protestants* or *Papists*, *Freemen* or *Slaves*? May our Soldiers therefore remember, when they draw the Sword, that

that the Cause for which they are fighting, is the Cause of Liberty, the Cause of Humanity, the Cause of the Gospel ! May this Remembrance animate, support, and invigorate them in the Day of Battle ! May Providence protect them in it, and crown them with Success !

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